

REMARKS**I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

A minor amendment has been made to the specification.¹ No claims have been amended or added. Claims 11-15 have been canceled. Claims 1-10, 16, 18-20 and 22-29 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that all of the pending claims (i.e. claims 1-10, 16, 18-20 and 22-29) have been allowed.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 11-15

Claims 11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,904,652 to Gilbert ("the Gilbert patent") and U.S. Patent No. 6,575,167 to McFadden ("the McFadden patent"). Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Gilbert patent, the McFadden patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,263,381 to Freadman ("the Freadman patent"). As claims 11-15 have been canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been rendered moot.²

¹ The amendment to the specification merely corrects a minor typographical error. Applicant respectfully submits such an amendment does not raise new issues and should be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) and MPEP 714.12 and 714.13.

² Applicant notes for the record that the cancellation of claims 11-15 is not an acquiescence to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 11-15 have been canceled solely in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue patent protection for the inventions defined by claims 11-15 in a continuation application.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the application at an early date is courteously solicited.

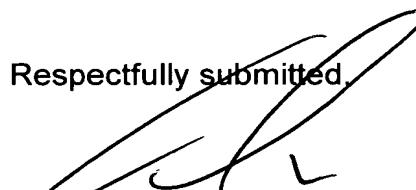
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Date

7/8/01

Respectfully submitted,


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